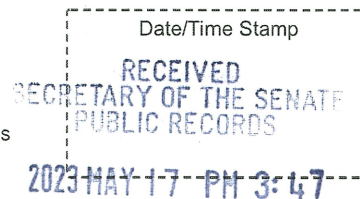


# RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

**Post Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**



**Certification:** In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

**Private Sponsor(s):**

American Compass

**Travel Dates:**

04/21/2023 to 04/23/2023

**Name of accompanying family member (if any):****Relationship to Traveler:****Expenses**

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$45.00	\$598.00	\$464.00	\$0.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

5-17-23

Date

Blake Seitz

Printed Name of Traveler



Signature of Traveler

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER**

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

5-17-23

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

## ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

**Note:** Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
There were no changes to pre-approved travel expenses.		

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Explanation:** There were no changes to the pre-approved itinerary.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

☐ Yes ☒ No

**Explanation:** There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.



# RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the Select Committee on Ethics in SH-320. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:

Blake Seitz

Employing Office/Committee:

COTTON, TOM

Private Sponsor(s):

American Compass

Destination(s):

Cambridge, Maryland

Travel Dates:

04/21/2023 to 04/23/2023

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

I am a speechwriter and legislative assistant for Senator Cotton. I write about and draft bills on a host of issues, including pro-family policy, trade policy, and industrial policy. These topics are core concerns of American Compass and will be central to discussions over the weekend. This trip will allow me to interact with other policymakers who think about and work on similar issues.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?

No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

N/A

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

03/20/23

Date

M. Blake Seitz

Signature of Employee

## TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,  
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Senator Tom Cotton

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Blake Seitz

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☒ (Signify "yes" by checking box)

03-20-23

Date

Tom Cotton

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer



# American Compass: American Compass Policy Workshop Retreat



Blake Seitz

**Title:**

None

**Employing Office/Committee:**

COTTON, TOM

**Duty Station:**

WASHINGTON, DC

**Destination(s):**

Cambridge, Maryland

**Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:**

I am a speechwriter and legislative assistant for Senator Cotton. I write about and draft bills on a host of issues, including pro-family policy, trade policy, and industrial policy. These topics are core concerns of American Compass and will be central to discussions over the weekend. This trip will allow me to interact with other policymakers who think about and work on similar issues.

**Name of accompanying family member (if any):**

Not Entered

**Name and Relationship to Traveler:**

None

## Organization Information

**Organization Name**

American Compass

**§501(c)(3) Organization Type**

Public Charity

**Address 2 (Optional)**

Public Charity

**Phone Number**

9196337020

**Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?**

Yes



No

**Address**

300 Independence Ave SE

**City, State Zip**

Washington DC, District Of Columbia 20003 United States

**Organization URL**

## History of Congressional Travel

American Compass was founded in 2020. Since establishing the organization, we have sponsored two retreats for which Senate staff has been in attendance. They have both been similar in scope and expense to this Retreat, with this event taking place at the exact same location as the 2022's retreat with an almost identical structure.

## Educational Activities

American Compass's educational activities include: hosting lectures, seminars, and panels on a wide variety of public policy topics; conducting research to help better inform the ongoing public debates; and producing policy analysis in order better educate the public on the merits of various policy proposals.

## Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

**Lobbyist Registration Status:** *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

**Foreign Agent Registration Status:** *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

## Foreign Government Involvement

### Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

## Comments

## Signature Page

The signature page is below.

## Purpose and Details

### Provide a brief description of the trip.

The trip will be a three day retreat comprised of educational sessions focused on economic policy that supports American families, workers, and industry.

### Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

American Compass is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2020 whose mission is to restore an economic consensus that emphasizes the importance of family, community, and industry to the nation's liberty and prosperity. Our third retreat is planned around substantive policy sessions to aid staff (governmental and non-governmental) on key economic policy topics so that they can more ably participate in ongoing public policy debates.

### Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

### Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

### With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.

### Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

### Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- ☒ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☒ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

### Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.



- ☒ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

### Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

### Invitees

**i** Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

### Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:  
04/21/2023 @ 01:00 PM



Trip End Date/Time:  
04/23/2023 @ 02:00 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

☐ Yes ☒ No

### Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$45.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Ground Transportation	Charter	\$45.00

#### Note

This is a charter bus for around 40 attendees. This is a good faith estimate of the total cost per person utilizing the charter bus. This option of transportation was extended to all attendees without regard to their place of employment. Not all of the attendees who are utilizing the charter bus are employed by the Senate or House, nor are all of the individuals listed on the Senate staff attendee list availing themselves of the travel.

## Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$598.00 )

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
04/21/2023	04/23/2023	Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay	Cambridge	Maryland	United States	2	\$299.00	Yes

**Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason**

Our nightly rate is higher than the GSA per diem. We found these costs necessary to book a meeting space that was large enough, private, and had adequate breakout space. The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake hotel proved to be the more affordable option when compared to comparable venues in driving distance of DC. Hill staffers are receiving no preferential treatment and are being provided the same accommodations as the other attendees. This event would still be hosted without congressional participation, although we hope those we have invited can attend.

## Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$464.00 )

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
04/21/2023	\$0.00	\$34.00	\$92.00	\$0.00	<b>\$126.00</b>	Cambridge	Maryland	United States	Yes

**Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason**

We found these costs necessary to book a meeting space that was large enough, private, and had adequate breakout space. The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake hotel proved to be the more affordable option when compared to comparable venues in driving distance of DC. Hill staffers are receiving no preferential treatment and are being provided the same accommodations as the other attendees. This event would still be hosted without congressional participation, although we hope those we have invited can attend. This is a good faith estimate based on planned attendee meals.

04/22/2023	\$42.00	\$62.00	\$130.00	\$0.00	<b>\$234.00</b>	Cambridge	Maryland	United States	Yes
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**Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason**

We found these costs necessary to book a meeting space that was large enough, private, and had adequate breakout space. The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake hotel proved to be the more affordable option when compared to comparable venues in driving distance of DC. Hill staffers are receiving no preferential treatment and are being provided the same accommodations as the other attendees. This event would still be hosted without congressional participation, although we hope those we have invited can attend. This is a good faith estimate based on planned attendee meals.

04/23/2023	\$42.00	\$62.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$104.00</b>	Cambridge	Maryland	United States	Yes
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**Cost Exceeds Per Diem Reason**

We found these costs necessary to book a meeting space that was large enough, private, and had adequate breakout space. The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake hotel proved to be the more affordable option when compared to comparable venues in driving distance of DC. Hill staffers are receiving no preferential treatment and are being provided the same accommodations as the other attendees. This event would still be hosted without congressional participation, although we hope those we have invited can attend. This is a good faith estimate based on planned attendee meals.

## Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$0.00 )

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
There are no miscellaneous expenses.		

## Additional Attachments

Document Name

There are no additional attachments.

## PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

## SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: American Compass Retreat  
Travel Date(s): 4/21-4/23  
Travel Destination(s): Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay  
  
Sponsor: American Compass

Duncan Braid  
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Program and Policy Manager  
(title)

  
(signature of sponsor representative)

3/8/2023  
(date)



**About the invitees:** The following individuals were extended an invitation to the American Compass Retreat due to their interest in conservative economic policy.

<b>Senate Staffers</b>			
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Role</b>
Tyler	Fagan	Sen. Josh Hawley	Legislative Aid
Benjamin	Esposito	Sen. Josh Hawley	Legislative Correspondent
Patrick	MacDonnell	Sen. Cotton	Speechwriter/Leg Aid
Robert	Ordway	Sen. Mike Braun	Counsel
Ryan	Rasins	Sen. Marco Rubio	Military LA
James	Hitchcock	Sen. Marco Rubio	Senior Policy Advisor
Peyton	Roth	Sen. Marco Rubio	Legislative Aid
Wells	King	Sen. J.D. Vance	Senior Policy Advisor
Will (Robert)	Green	Sen. Marco Rubio	Legislative Assistant
Vijay	Menon	Sen. Josh Hawley	Legislative Assistant
Blake	Seitz	Sen. Tom Cotton	Speechwriter
Patrick	Brenan	Sen. J.D. Vance	Investigations and Health Counsel
Katherine	Thompson	Sen. Josh Hawley	Foreign Policy Advisor



**American Compass**  
300 Independence Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
[www.americancompass.org](http://www.americancompass.org)

To: Blake Seitz

3/9/23

**Invitation**  
**American Compass Workshop on Conservative Economics**  
Friday, April 21 – Sunday, April 23, 2023  
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay  
Cambridge, MD

The purpose of this trip is to provide American Compass members with the opportunity to encounter new political and economic ideas that can help shape a conservative consensus that emphasizes the importance of family, community, and industry to the nation's liberty and prosperity. This will include industrial policy, labor, family formation, financial regulation, and many more topics that members have contributed to and learned from over the past year.

You are being invited because of your interest in conservative economic policy. If you choose to attend, we will cover your lodging, meals, and provide a charter bus to and from Cambridge, MD and DC.

Sincerely,

Oren Cass  
Executive Director

## American Compass Conservative Economics Workshop

Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23, 2023

Hyatt Chesapeake Bay | Cambridge, MD

### Retreat Programing

## Friday April 21

### CHARTER BUS (IF RIDING)

*Union Station*

**10:30am**

*Attendees arrive and board bus*

**11:00am**

*Bus departs to Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay*

**1:00pm**

*Bus arrives at Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay*

**1:00pm-5:00pm**

### REGISTRATION

**2:00pm-3:30pm**

### BYOB: BUILD YOUR OWN BUDGET

The whole group will convene for a brief primer on the federal budget's structure, and then we will break into small groups to play with a Compass-developed budget model. Each group will need to settle on a package of tax and spending increases and cuts that close the budget by \$1 trillion over the next ten years. Choices will be shared and compared on Saturday morning.

*Moderated by Oren Cass*

**3:00pm-5:00pm**

### CHECK-IN

**3:30pm-4:30pm**

### PEER REVIEW

We'll be going around the horn, inviting each attendee to share what they're working on and everyone else to provide feedback.

*Moderated by Oren Cass & Chris Griswold*

**5:00pm-6:30pm**

### WELCOME RECEPTION

**6:30pm-8:30pm**

### DINNER

#### Prospects and Problems for Conservative Economics

Executive Director Oren Cass gives a keynote address on the opportunities and challenges facing the movement to change the economic policy consensus on the center-right.

*Remarks by Oren Cass*

**8:30pm-11:00pm****NIGHTCAP & FELLOWSHIP**

An opportunity for attendees to gather and share a drink if they so choose before ending the day.

**Saturday, April 22****8:00am-9:00am****BREAKFAST****SESSION I: IN SEARCH OF ALIGNMENT**

9:00am-12:15pm

*After real-time polling to determine the sense of the group on a variety of issues, and a review of budget choices made the prior day, we'll hear from panels on issues of ongoing debate within the realignment and from Ambassador Robert Lighthizer on the best fights to have right now.*

**9:00am-9:30am****REAL-TIME POLLING**

Attendees will respond via their mobile devices to a variety of poll questions, seeing the group's responses in real-time. We will also see how the group fixed the federal budget.

**9:35am-10:30am****PANEL: HOW COMPASSIONATE IS CONSERVATISM**

Conservatives have made significant progress in redefining their economic agenda to be more skeptical of markets generally and big business in particular, recognizing the role for public policy in supporting family, community, and industry. But most of what the government actually does is social spending: entitlements, insurance programs, and the safety net. What are the conservative principles that should guide policymakers and what implications does that have for salient political issues like Social Security and Medicare, Obamacare, safety-net work requirements, family policy, drug treatment, and student debt? How do the answers to those questions align with what the American people want?

Feat. Amber Lapp, Research Fellow at the Institute for Family Studies; Caleb Orr, Research Fellow with Boyden Gray & Associates; Charles Correll, Speechwriter for Speaker McCarthy\*

*Moderated by Chris Griswold*

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*\*Titles are for identification purposes only*



**10:30am-10:45am****BREAK****10:45am-11:20am****Q&A WITH AMB. LIGHTHIZER**

Reconsideration of globalization, trade policy, and the Sino-American relationship have been central priorities for the New Right and among the most significant lasting achievements of the Trump Administration. In some respects, the Biden Administration has carried that work forward, while in others it seems more inclined to backslide. Ambassador Lighthizer will discuss key areas for holding the line or making further progress, and answer attendees' questions.

*Moderated by Oren Cass*

**11:20am-12:15pm****PANEL: OUR WOBBLY STOOL**

The Reagan coalition's "three-legged stool," supported by economic libertarians, social conservatives, and Cold War hawks, assigned responsibility for different policy domains to different constituencies and held the emphasis on each in balance. At this point, the New Right looks more like a beanbag chair. What are the most important elements of the coalition's economic, social, and foreign policy, how do they fit together, and who should be emphasizing which, when? Are the economic and social emphases in conflict or merely competition, and how can they best complement each other?

Feat. Wells King, Senior Policy Advisor for Senator J.D. Vance; Emily Jashinsky, Culture Editor at The Federalist; Saurabh Sharma, President of American Moment\*

*Moderated by Oren Cass*

**12:15pm-1:30pm****LUNCH DEBRIEF**

Participants will share reactions to topics discussed in the panels. Discussion questions will be provided  
*Hosted by Duncan Braid*

**SESSION II: INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN PRACTICE**

1:30pm-4:30pm

*Attendees will participate in a Harvard Program on Negotiation simulation, attempting to forge an agreement to the construction of a deepwater harbor. (Further instructions available in your welcome packet.)*

**1:30pm-1:45pm****PLENARY: WELCOME TO SEABORNE**

An introduction to the simulation and brief explanation of rules and scoring.

**1:45pm-4:30pm****BREAKOUT: HOW HARD COULD IT REALLY BE?**

A challenge in all policy making is aligning the interests of the necessary stakeholders. In groups of 10 to 12, attendees will engage in a simulated exercise where they will attempt to reach an agreement necessary to build a deepwater harbor. They will be assigned roles of key government, industry and political groups each with different and, at times, conflicting priorities. The simulation will be scored, and there are prizes.

*Hosted by Duncan Braid*

**4:30pm-6:00pm****BREAK****6:00pm-8:00pm****DINNER**

Open buffet for attendees to eat at their convenience and discuss the weekend's programming so far

**8:00pm-10:00pm****PAST AS PROLOGUE**

Attendees in small groups will be challenged with trivia about past political realignments, major legislative efforts, and other miscellany.

*Hosted by Oren Cass*

**10:00pm-11:00pm****NIGHTCAP & FELLOWSHIP**

An opportunity for attendees to gather and share a drink if they so choose before ending the day.

## Sunday, April 23

**8:00am-9:00am****BREAKFAST****9:00am-10:00am****EXECUTIVE TIME****SESSION III: REALIGNMENT ON THE JOB**

10:00am-12:30pm

*Attendees will meet in groups organized by profession to discuss challenges and opportunities in their own work, before reconvening to compare notes.*

**10:00am-11:00am****BREAKOUT: SHOP TALK**

Attendees in small groups apply insights from the previous sessions to their own careers and consider how they might help or be helped by colleagues in other professions.

**11:10am-12:15pm****PLENARY: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER**

Attendees reconvene to discuss their own priorities and opportunities for collaboration. American Compass shares its own plans for the coming year.

**12:30pm-1:30pm****CLOSING LUNCH****CHARTER BUS (IF RIDING)***Front Lobby***1:30pm***Attendees load their luggage onto the bus.***2:00pm***Bus departs to Union Station***4:00pm***Bus arrives at Union Station*